



PRESS RELEASE

House National Security Committee

Floyd D. Spence, Chairman

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SPENCE RESPONDS TO REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATION FUNDING SHORTFALLS FOR NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE

“The Administration’s commitment to its own national missile defense program has been questionable from outset. So reports of a more than \$2 billion budget shortfall – an astounding error of approximately 100 percent – over the next 5 years certainly vindicates the skeptics.

“The President ought to simply commit to the deployment of a missile defense for Americans. But even if the President is only willing to commit to being prepared for such a deployment, he owes it to the American public to at least fund that commitment.

“In a similar vein, the Administration’s credibility problem on missile defense also applies to critical theater ballistic missile defense programs. Despite bold Administration statements accompanying this year’s budget request about its acceleration of TMD systems, the actual funding requested for TMD programs was cut by at least \$400 million from current spending levels. In fact, cuts were proposed in virtually every TMD program under development.

“The widening gap between the Administration’s rhetorical commitment to missile defense and their proposed budgets continues to undermine the President’s credibility on one of the most important security issues this nation confronts.”

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